



Rep. Ivey in Greenbelt, p.11



Golden Age Lunch, p.6

Intern Laura Charleston Describes White House Correspondents' Dinner

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Saturday, April 25, Greenbelt News Review Intern Laura Charleston was among those at this year's White House Correspondents' Dinner. Charleston, who will graduate next month with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, was there to be recognized as a recipient of the Frank Cormier Scholarship. Unfortunately, she was unable to be recognized or receive her certificate because an alleged assassination attempt disrupted the annual event. Here, in an eyewitness account, she shares her experience



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL FANNING

Laura Charleston at the 2026 White House Correspondents' Dinner

of the evening with News Review readers.

Laura describes the dinner as "prestigious" and "buzzing." "Though we were over 2,000 people in that room, many of us were moving around, introducing

See [INTERN](#), page 10

Ukrainian Parliamentarians Tour Greenbelt with Rebuilding in Mind

by Frank Gervasi



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Members of Ukraine's Parliament meet with Attorney Eli Rosenbaum, retired US Department of Justice Counselor for War Crimes Accountability and US-Ukraine Foundation Project Director Oksana Sukhina over lunch at the Cedars of Lebanon. Pictured clockwise: Members of Ukraine Parliament Iryna Nykorak, Oksana Dmytriieva, Anna Purtova and Valerii Bozhyk with Oksana Sukhina, Greenbelter and Conference Interpreter and Translator Peter Voitsekhovskiy (standing), and Eli Rosenbaum.

On Thursday, April 23, five members of the Ukrainian Parliament arrived in Greenbelt to look at our town, meet with our mayor and with three other City Council members. The delegation was looking for models for redevelopment in their own cities.

They were very impressed by Greenbelt's well-designed town center, our sense of community, walkability and especially our green spaces and surrounding forest. "Soon the war will be over and some cities are completely destroyed [down] to the ground," explained Dr. Anna Purtova,

deputy chair of the Parliament's Budget Committee and chair of the Subcommittee on State Investment Projects. Rebuilding after so much destruction, reinventing their system of local government, healthcare systems, education and sister city possibilities were the main discussion topics for the delegation.

Different Systems

There are huge differences between our systems of local government. A town the size of Greenbelt in Ukraine would have 31 or 32 volunteer council See [UKRAINE](#), page 9

Election 2026

Introducing District 4 Candidates On County Issues, Data Centers

by Stephen Lotz

The District 4 seat on the Prince George's County Council has drawn three Democratic candidates. Incumbent Tim Adams, who was appointed in February after Ingrid Watson stepped down to head the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, is facing challengers Juliet Agocha and Euniesha Davis.

Tim Adams

Adams is the current county council member for District 4. He previously served as the mayor of Bowie since 2019, where he was the city's first Black mayor. He stepped down from his position as mayor in February to be appointed to county council. In 2024 Adams ran for an at-large county council seat in a special



PHOTO COURTESY TIM ADAMS CAMPAIGN

Tim Adams



PHOTO COURTESY JULIET AGOCHA

Juliet Agocha



PHOTO COURTESY EUNIESHA DAVIS

Euniesha Davis

election but lost to Jolene Ivey in the primary. In 2022 Adams ran for state comptroller and in 2018 he ran for Maryland State Senate District 23, losing both races in the Democratic primaries.

Adams is the founder of Systems Application & Technologies, Inc., a Maryland-based defense contractor. He has served on multiple regional boards and commis-

sions. Adams holds a bachelor's degree from Xavier University of Louisiana and an MBA from the University of New Orleans. His answer to our first question has been edited to fit the word limit.

What are two important issues facing Prince George's County?

Prince George's County is

See [CANDIDATES](#), page 8

Council Hears from Recreation Directors at Budget Worksession

by Lesley Kash

Part 1 of 2

This report on the Recreation Department budget is divided into two parts. This week's Part 1 is on participants, budget increases and capital projects, potential wage increases, inclusion of non-Greenbelt participants and uses of the Community Center and other venues. Part 2 will include commercial and utility tax rates, Greenbelt Museum issues, the Tugwell Room and lighting for tennis and volleyball courts.

At the April 22 budget worksession, Councilmembers Amy Knesel, Danielle McKinney, Jenni Pompei, Emmett Jordan, Kristen Weaver and Frankie Fritz and City Manager Josué Salmerón met with senior recreation staff about the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 recreation budget.

Mayor Jordan welcomed Recreation Director Greg Varda; Anne

Oudemans, assistant director of Recreation Programs; Andrew Phelan, assistant director of Recreation Operations and Facilities; and Greenbelt Museum Director Megan Searing Young.

Varda described Recreation's nine sub-budgets: Administration, Arts, Aquatic/Fitness, Museum, Therapeutic Recreation, Community Center, Recreation Centers, Recreation Programs and Special Events. Proposed expenditures are slightly under \$9 million (around \$2 million for Parks, managed by Public Works) with revenue of slightly over \$2 million.

The FY 2027 budget includes a 2 percent cost of living increase, partial funding of Learn 2 Earn and expanded Arts offerings in Greenbelt West. Planned capital

projects include ballfield improvements, Greenbelt Station and Buddy Attick Park amenities and preparations for the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SLRC) addition.

Challenges include minimum wage increases from \$15.00 to \$15.30, susceptible to county increases each year, complicating planning. Also, according to the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, after 500 hours per year workers may be entitled to Maryland or city benefits. Summer camp staff can work 300 to 400 hours and could exceed 500 by working during the school year.

Jordan observed that with more employees than other city departments, Recreation's budget

See [COUNCIL](#), page 12

What Goes On

Monday, May 4

7:00 p.m., City Council Budget Worksession: Green Ridge House; Special Meeting/Closed Session, Personnel Matters; Green Ridge House

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 p.m., Council Budget Worksession: Recognition Groups (Group 1), Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY BOB HUH

K-Pop performers dance at the Eleanor Roosevelt Korean Club Showcase. See story on page 16.

Letters to the Editor

PORCH Volunteers: Thanks for Your Work

To those who help with Greenbelt PORCH and St. Hugh Food Pantry:

Because of your commitment, showing up consistently and caring deeply about your neighbors, families have reliable access to food and local pantries are better supported. What may feel like a simple act of volunteering becomes something much larger: a network of neighbors helping neighbors, rooted in generosity and trust.

Thank you for the time, energy and heart you bring to this work.

You are the reason PORCH Communities thrive, and we are grateful for all that you make possible. Our shared commitment to community-powered hunger relief will be invaluable as Greenbelt PORCH continues to grow and deepen its impact. Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in the month of May. See Community Events for the schedule.

Robert Goldberg-Strassler



Corrections

In last week's issue the upcoming volunteer events with Reflection Park should have noted they will take place at their property in Silver Spring, not Greenbelt. Greenbelter Natalie Bailey is leading a native plant flower garden and meadow planting event on May 2 and an invasive species removal session on May 16 at Reflection Park in Silver Spring. More information is available at reflectionpark.org/events.



Seven Wonders of Greenbelt

(ACCORDING TO PETE)



#6 Greenbelt Park

A campground hidden in plain sight in Greenbelt. Bring your tent and plenty of bug spray.



Canada goose goslings take a swim at Greenbelt Lake.

PHOTO BY MARY MURCHISON-EDWARDS

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7,
senior/student/military \$9

Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
MAY 1st - 7th

Lorne (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (101 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:15 PM, 7:40 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM (OC)
Tue. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 7:45 PM
Mon. 4:40 PM, 7:35 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM

Michael (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (127 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 7:30 PM
Mon. 4:25 PM (OC), 7:20 PM
Tue. 3:30 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:55 PM
Sun. 4:40 PM
Thurs. 8:15 PM

The Natural
(PG) (1984) (122 mins)
Free Cinema Classic
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on this page for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Lorne
From Morgan Neville - Academy Award-winning filmmaker of 20 Feet from Stardom and Won't You Be My Neighbor? - comes Lorne, an unprecedented, behind-the-scenes glimpse at Saturday Night Live creator Lorne Michaels, the man who built the man who built the inimitable empire of comedy, shaping television and culture for generations. The documentary features exclusive footage, archival treasures and candid interviews with the show's most iconic cast members and writers including Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph, John Mulaney, Andy Samberg, Conan O'Brien, Chris Rock and many more.

Michael
This biopic is the cinematic portrayal of the life and legacy of one of the most influential artists the world has ever known. The film tells the story of Michael Jackson's life beyond the music, tracing his journey from the discovery of his extraordinary talent as the lead of the Jackson Five, to the visionary artist whose creative ambition fueled a relentless pursuit to become the biggest entertainer in the world. Highlighting both his life off-stage and some of the most iconic performances from his early solo career, the film gives audiences a front row seat to Michael Jackson as never before. This is where his story begins.

The Natural
On the way to a tryout with the Chicago Cubs, young baseball phenom Roy Hobbs (Robert Redford) is shot by the unstable Harriet Bird (Barbara Hershey). After 16 years, Hobbs returns to pro baseball as a rookie for the last-place New York Knights. Despite early arguments with his manager, Pop Fisher (Wilford Brimley), Hobbs becomes one of the best players in the league, and the Knights start winning. But this upsets the Judge (Robert Prosky), their owner, who wants Hobbs to lose games, not win.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Library, 301-345-5800; for Spanish, call Biblio Consulta, 301-358-6862.

Storytimes

Friday, May 1, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16130233.

Wednesday, May 6, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16130157.

Thursday, May 7, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16130191.

LEGO Build

Monday, May 4, 4 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Build, create and explore with Legos. With plenty of pieces and endless possibilities, kids can let their imaginations take the lead in this freestyle building session. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16060873.

Japanese Koto Recital

Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m., all ages. Special Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event. The Washington Toho Koto Society is a group of over 100 players and friends. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16032436.

Ride and Read

Thursday, May 7, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16137213.

Bibliophiles to Meet At NDC on May 13

The Bibliophiles will meet at the New Deal Café at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, to discuss the book One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This by Omar El Akkad. The group is open to all.

GSFC Visitor Center Celebrates 50 Years

On Saturday, May 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. the Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor Center will host a public, family-friendly event to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Hands-on activities will focus on the visitor center's exhibits, and presentations will provide an overview of Goddard and its many missions. The Visitor Center's monthly model rocket launch will also take place. The Visitor Center is at 9432 Greenbelt Road.

Workers Unite

May First is International Workers Day. Gather at the Spellman Overpass over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway near Gardenway from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 1 to play music, dance, chant, hold signs and wave in solidarity with working people around the world. Workers cannot afford war!

Sponsored by the Greenbelt Resistance Network.



Ring a Bell for Liberty

It's the third monthly bell ringing event, joining the National Call, on Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m. in Roosevelt Center. Bring a bell on the 7th of each month and ring it for 7 minutes at 7 p.m. until the current administration is out.

GAIL to Celebrate 25th Anniversary

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program on Monday, May 18, at the Community Center Ground Floor East. Meet the lead character and author of the movie Give Your Parents a Standing Ovation. RSVP to Cesar Herrera at 240-241-0037 by Monday, May 11.

Youth Service Opportunity

The Greenbelt Rotary Club is hosting a Greenbelt Garden Tour on Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with ticket purchases funding the club's community service activities. The club is offering service hours to young people for checking tickets at gardens. Each youth will be assigned to one garden, or several GHI gardens next door to each other. Responsibilities include confirming attendee tickets and giving the ticket purchase QR code to attendees needing tickets. Training will be provided. The gardens are in Greenbelt East, Center and West. Rain date: If there is light rain, the tour will proceed. If there is heavy rain, the tour will be Sunday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign up at forms.gle/FFp3YWWgp76nnSDv8. For more information about the tour and Greenbelt Rotary community service activities, visit tinyurl.com/ucyf2n7a or the club website at greenbeltrotary.org, or email rotarygreenbelt@gmail.com.

PORCH May Schedule

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in the month of May as scheduled below.

Saturday, May 2 - after 9 a.m. at 23, 24, 25 and 26 Courts Ridge Road

Sunday, May 3 - by 5 p.m. at 18 Court Ridge

Sunday, May 10 - by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge, 1-8 Courts Crescent and 1-2 Courts Westway

Saturday, May 16 - by 9 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, May 17 - by 4 p.m. for 33 Court Ridge and Boxwood Village

Sunday, May 17 - by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon May 17 at spreadruak@gmail.com; he will come to your porch.

Sunday, May 17 - by 5 p.m. for Eastway and Lakeside Drive.

Saturday, May 23 - by 10 a.m. for Mathew Street to Megan Lane including Brett Place.

Sunday, May 24 - after 6 p.m. for 11-S Ridge, 14 Court Ridge and 16 Court Ridge

Sunday, May 24 - after 6 p.m. for 8 and 10 Courts Southway

Golden Age Club May Meetings

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

May 6, Business meeting

May 13, Speaker: Jan Derry, Silkworms: The Silk Queen of Fibers.

May 20, Birthday luncheon. Bring a dish to share.

May 27, Bingo

English, Spanish Story Time May 8

On Friday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities in English and Spanish for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 8 de Mayo a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas en inglés y español para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Únete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Poetry in the Garden

The public is invited to join a poetry reading on Sunday, May 3 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the clubhouse of Schrom Hills Park. For more details, contact Effie at 443-415-1053



Green Man Festival At Roosevelt Center

Join the fun at the Green Man Festival on Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10 at Roosevelt Center. Great bands will be playing both days, including Tower Green, 27th St. Klezmer, the Greenbelt HONK! Situation Band and the Green Top Ramblers on Saturday. Katy & the Gongs, the Mauvin Graye & the Graye Line Band, Brinjal Music and the Aubergine Faeries will play on Sunday. Music continues inside the New Deal Café both evenings, with On the Bus and the Funicular Project. There will be a drum circle with Katy Gaughan on Saturday morning.

There are over 40 vendors, crafts for kids, info booths, a Green Man parade, food, face painting, hula hooping and family fun both days. Bring family and friends. Dress as a favorite fairy, green being, butterfly or creature. All Free. For more information, visit the Greenbelt Green Man Festival Facebook Page.



G-B Garden Club Plant Sale May 2

The Greenbelt-Beltsville Garden Club will host its popular annual plant sale on Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to noon, in the parking lot next to Roosevelt Center where the Farmers Market is held. A large variety of affordable, healthy plants will be available, among them vegetables, herbs, houseplants, annuals, native perennials and shrubs.

Roaming Stone will also be on site to sharpen tools and knives during the event for a fee, including scissors (excluding hair/grooming shears), gardening and yardwork tools and mower blades.

Spring is here and it's planting time. This sale has what is needed to get the growing season off to a good start. For more information about the club, visit beltsvillegardenclub.org.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!*



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight;

Sunday, 9am – 9pm

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!
*** RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 ***

TH 4/30	FRI 5/01	SAT 5/02	SUN 5/03	
Potecasi Slade & The Slade Band 7 - 9pm Funky blues band with deep roots in the DMV	Honey Sol 8 - 11pm Power trio based in Annapolis; their funk, soul and rock grooves will get ya going!	Little Red & The Renegades 8 - 11pm Zydeco, New Orleans funk & swamp rock with this high-energy band	VOICES OF RESISTANCE: "Raise Your Voice" CD release party w/ Kim Eaton and various artists 4 - 8pm	
MON 5/04	TUES 5/05	WED 5/06	TH 5/07	New Deal Cafe
MONDAY MAUVENESS KARAOKE w/ Mike Bennett 6 - 9pm	S.A.W.Open Mic w/ Lynn Hollyfield 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	The Campfire Sessions 7 - 9pm A monthly listening room w/ Joseph P. Swelterpants	Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm A big, bodacious boogie blues jam hosted by Wolf Crescenze	THERE'S STILL TIME TO RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

*Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot)com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."
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Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television

May 2026

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast Channel 77 • Streaming Online at GreenbeltAccessTV.org

Community-Driven Storytelling

Featured Productions

New, daily episodes of Democracy Now

Coverage of local events, performances and productions

All-new creations from Mister Geo's Homeschool Digital Animation Class

All this and more on our cable channels, online streaming, and YouTube channel. As always, thank you for tuning in!

Greenbelt Community Church Welcomes Rev. Aubra Love

by Amy Hansen

On Sunday, April 26, clergy and friends from around the country gathered to welcome and celebrate the Pastoral Installation of the Rev. Aubra Love as the new Senior Pastor of the Greenbelt Community Church.

The Pastoral Installation service was held in the sanctuary, with a reception in the church social hall. Invited guest preacher, the Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Washington, D.C., delivered a rousing sermon. The Rev. Matthew Braddock gave the pastoral charge while Minister Patricia White offered the charge to the congregation.

The service was a celebration of prayers, music and sacred dance, followed by a meal in the social hall. This worship service welcomed guests and support letters from St. Hugh of Grenoble, the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association and the Greenbelt Baha'i Community, among others. Worship Leaders from Greenbelt Community Church were Tina Alston, Jan Derry, Mark Granfors-Hunt, Keith Johnson, Karen Jones, Rick Ransom and Dawn Revely.

Greenbelt Community Church is a local congregation of the United Church of Christ (UCC). The church is located at 1 Hillside Road, with services on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.



PHOTO COURTESY AUBRA LOVE

From left, front row: The Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss, senior pastor, First Congregational UCC, Washington, D.C.; Greenbelt Community Church Senior Pastor, the Rev. Aubra Love; Dia Hodnett; Minister Patricia White; middle row: the Rev. Freeman L. Palmer, Central Atlantic Conference minister; the Rev. Holly Jackson, Potomac Association-Associate Conference minister; the Rev. Gloria Grant, Christ Congregational Church; the Rev. Jason Carson-Wilson, Potomac Association Board Chair; back row: the Rev. Darryl Moch, pastor of Fredericksburg UCC; the Rev. Francine Vinson, Faith UCC; the Rev. Cindy Bovee-Kemper, Southeast Conference of the UCC; the Rev. Dr. Matthew Braddock, senior minister, Christ Congregational Church, Silver Spring; the Rev. Dr. Vertie Powers, Central Atlantic Conference staff

Essay and Arts Awards Ceremony

The Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project presents an Awards Ceremony for the winners of its annual Racial Justice Essay and Creative Arts Contest for High School Students in Prince George's County. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 201. The awards ceremony is co-sponsored by the Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee.

Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then optional sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience Robbins at patience.robbins@gmail.com.



Find More Peace Through Meditation

Ever wonder what it would be like to be encouraged to relax and slow down? Ever ponder how meditation might contribute to your health and well-being?

Katrina Boverman, a longtime meditation instructor with the SAGE program, and the Mishkan Torah Synagogue Sisterhood have quietly offered Summer Guided Meditation classes for the past 11 years. Although the synagogue itself is a wonderful peaceful setting welcoming to all, meditation will again be offered via Zoom to attend from the comfort of your own home.

Attendees have reported quieting of their bodies, minds and spirits, a deepening of inner stillness and a better ability to reconnect with themselves. They have described feeling more peaceful, serene, relaxed, mindful and present, both during and between the classes. Common experiences outside of the class for participants have been to have greater ease falling asleep and more patience during challenging times.

Classes via Zoom begin Monday, June 1 from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m., for seven sessions, held every other Monday through August 24. There is no charge; donations are welcome.

For more information email or call Katrinaboverman@yahoo.com or 301-641-1035.

Six-week Mindfulness Meditation Practice

Rev. Mark Granfors-Hunt of Greenbelt Community Church is offering an introductory six-week Mindfulness Meditation practice entitled Mindfully Yours.

This Introduction to Mindfulness series will introduce students to the calming, centering and enlivening experience of a daily Mindful Meditation practice. Each session will include teaching on a particular topic of meditation, a time of mindful meditation practice on that topic and a time for questions. Participants will explore the practice of Mindful Meditation. Classes are scheduled for six consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning May 5 and ending on June 9, between 7 and 8 p.m. All class offerings will be via Zoom.

These classes are being offered free of charge, and there will be a free will offering opportunity once the sessions have been completed. For more information or to enroll contact Mark at mgh.gbtl@gmail.com.



Congratulations to ERHS students John Kelley, Antony Lin, Loriel Nickel, Meghana Noojipady and Violet Ridge who competed in the 2026 VEX robotics high school World Championship. See story and photos on page 16.

Congratulations to Greenbelt News Review intern Laura Charleston who was to be recognized as a recipient of the Frank Cormier Scholarship at the April 25 White House Correspondents' Dinner. We are glad Charleston was safe after the event was abruptly canceled. She will graduate next month with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland.

Congratulations also to Rev. Aubra Love on her installation as the new Senior Pastor of the Greenbelt Community Church on April 26 with clergy and friends from around the country attending the celebration.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 202
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ROOM 202 THIS WEEK

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCG1985+ownergroups.io](https://ccg1985+ownergroups.io)

"The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman

A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.

Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom

For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

May 3, 2026, at 3 p.m.
Through the Looking Glass
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Carol Boston

In the spirit of our May theme (Wow), we'll consider the wonders we often miss in the world around us when we aren't looking up (or looking within) - because we're looking at our screens.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Let's party! Celebrations from the Bible.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road

We Are an Open and Affirming Church

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Rev. Aubra Love, Senior Pastor

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

FY2027 Budget Work Sessions at a Glance

FY2027 Budget Work Session Schedule

OVERVIEW FROM APRIL 22 BUDGET WORK SESSION

Greenbelt City Council held a work session focused on the proposed FY2027 **Recreation Department** budget, with Director Greg Varda and staff presenting a \$9 million budget that includes funding for a 2% COLA for non-classified staff and expanded arts offerings in Greenbelt West.

Recreation reported serving 62% Greenbelt residents and 38% non-residents in summer camps, with consistent program growth across all areas despite space and time constraints.

Key discussions

- Revenue challenges
- Facility accessibility improvements including ADA compliance at the pool and community center
- Plans for museum renovations following confirmed state funding

City Council also addressed parking issues at recreation facilities, particularly at Buddy Attic Park where demand exceeds capacity, and discussed potential solutions including additional lighting for tennis and volleyball courts.

The Greenbelt City Council will hold a series of work sessions throughout April and May to review and discuss the FY2027 Proposed Budget with City staff. Community members are encouraged to tune in or attend to learn more about upcoming plans and priorities for our city.

Join us in person at 25 Crescent Road, or virtually via YouTube, the Greenbelt website at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV livestream, Zoom, or on Verizon and Comcast cable channels.

View the full schedule of upcoming work session dates below:

- (May 4) Budget Work Session - Green Ridge House
- (May 6) Budget Work Session - Recognition Groups (Group 1)
- (May 11) 2nd Public Hearing
- (May 13) Budget Work Session - Recognition Groups (Group 2)
- (May 18) Budget Work Session - Final Budget Review
- (May 26) Budget Adoption

MEETINGS FOR MAY 4 - 8

Monday, May 4 at 7 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - GREEN RIDGE HOUSE - 22 Ridge Road, Green Ridge House**

Monday, May 4, immediately following the Budget Work Session, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION - PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Tuesday, May 5 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVANCING PUBLIC SAFETY - Virtual, On the Agenda: Planning for May's Teen Talk focus group as part of Invest in Our Youth Initiative, Review of Police Dept's submitted updated General Order**

Tuesday, May 5 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION - Virtual, On the Agenda: Recommendations, Report Writing, Announcements**

Wednesday, May 6 at 7 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - RECOGNITION GROUPS (GROUP 1) - Council Chambers**

Thursday, May 7 at 7 pm, **CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE - Council Chambers, On the Agenda: TBD**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a public hearing to be held during the Regular Meeting of Council **Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET FY 2026-2027

REVENUES	
Taxes	\$32,939,829
Licenses & Permits	1,267,500
Intergovernmental	1,468,800
Charges for Services	2,428,900
Fines & Forfeitures	1,214,520
Interest	300,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	296,900
Interfund Transfers	1,831,700
TOTAL REVENUES	\$41,748,149
EXPENDITURES	
General Government	\$5,484,494
Planning and Community Development	1,429,251
Public Safety	14,363,507
Public Works	5,527,242
Greenbelt CARES	1,726,046
Recreation and Parks	8,955,738
Miscellaneous	373,640
Non-Departmental	1,440,400
Fund Transfers	2,440,928
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$41,741,246
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE BUDGETS FOR OTHER FUNDS	
Cemetery Fund	\$0
Debt Service Fund	801,100
Replacement Fund	607,999
Special Projects Fund	575,300
Enterprise Fund – Green Ridge House	1,839,200
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS	\$3,823,599
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS	
Capital Projects Fund	\$5,331,800
Building Capital Reserve Fund	\$3,178,445
Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund	4,275,000
Community Development Block Grant Fund	231,022
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	\$13,016,267
The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtual via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged. All citizens of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions concerning the entire proposed budget. If special accommodations are required to make this meeting accessible to any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 or e-mail the City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltmd.gov no later than 10 a.m. on the meeting day. Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The proposed budget is also posted on the City Web site at http://www.greenbeltmd.gov . For more information, please call 301-474-8000.	
- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk	

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026 , immediately following the Council Budget Work Session Green Ridge House, in the Municipal Building Library: 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction.

2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

* *The public may attend the Budget Work Session prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Monday, May 4, 2026.*

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

2ND ANNUAL TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Saturday, May 2 from 11 am - 2 pm

Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Rd, Parking lot behind AMC

Join us on Saturday, May 2 from 11 am to 2 pm for Greenbelt's 2nd Annual Touch-A-Truck at Beltway Plaza! Bring the whole family for a hands-on day of big trucks, games, activities, and plenty of fun. Climb aboard real vehicles, enjoy music, food, and a lively atmosphere, plus prizes and giveaways throughout the event. This free, all-ages event takes place in the parking lot behind AMC at 6000 Greenbelt Road.

WSSC COMMUNITY UPDATE MEETING

Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 202

Join us for an important in-person community update and Q&A session on the Greenbelt Standpipe Rehabilitation Project. To request accommodations, contact Joy Hamilton at 240-814-8511 or email Joy.Hamilton@wsscwater.com.

While the contractor will continue working on site this week, the more audible blasting work (using the Faster Blaster equipment) is now expected to begin on or about Monday, May 4.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

May 5 from 10am - 1 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

Once Upon A Greenbelt!

This event is for Greenbelt Residents only.

Free vision and hearing screenings for parents and children in elementary and middle school.

SCAN ME

Tuesday, May 5 from 10 am - 1 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

This free health screening is for adults 18+. No insurance or ID required. Available screenings: Blood pressure, A1C testing, Glucose testing, and/or Cholesterol screening

Register at <https://forms.gle/v5jabqbbAuL88YcS9>.

Contact: Canela Bascolo at (240) 542-8810 or cbascolo@greenbeltmd.gov

UPCOMING FREE PROGRAMS

The City of Greenbelt is happy to provide the following programs **FREE** of charge. For more information, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

- STRONGER EVERY YEAR - A HEALTHY AGING AND PREVENTION FAIR** Thursday, May 28, 1-4 pm. Featuring Reflexology, Memory Screenings, Journaling, and more.
- MEMORY CAFE** May 6 and May 20 at 1: 30 pm - *Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East.*
- ESSENTIAL NARCAN TRAINING** May 6 at 1 pm - *Greenbelt Community Center:* You will receive a free Narcan kit and certification upon completion.
- BIKE TO WORK DAY** Friday, May 15, 6:30 - 8:30 am, *Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center parking lot*

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES *
APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx

Art Studio Open House & Sale! Sunday, May 3; 1-4pm (Greenbelt Community Center) Tour the studios of the Artists in Residence

- Shop for fine art and elevated functional wares
- Interactive demonstrations with Greenbelt Recreation teaching artists
- More hands-on arts for all ages. Sign up at [sugeni.us/enFb](https://www.facebook.com/greenbeltmd) for free papercraft workshops. Plus, weather-permitting: spray art wall; plein air painting (BYO supplies).
- Mehndi artist: temporary body art (starting at \$10)
- Art book swap: bring and browse fine art & instructional books

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

Registration required for these activities, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details.

- Without A Pattern: A Weekend of Sewing Dangerously** 5/16-17; 9:30am-5:30pm (Greenbelt Community Center) page 21.
- Pet Portrait Painting** 5/17-5/24; 1-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) page 25.
- Fused Glass Wall Hanging** 5/25; 11am-1pm (Greenbelt Community Center) page 24.

FEATURED PETS



Blu

Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124

7-month-old Blu was recently surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. While Blu initially had some nerves adjusting to the shelter, he has become a sweet love bug full of puppy kisses and zoomies. When he's not smothering you in affection, Blu loves to play with tennis balls and go on walks. He does great on the leash and is non-reactive – he just wants to say hi to everyone he sees (plus, his former owner said he really loves other dogs).

If you're interested in adopting bright-eyed Blu, please reach out to us at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call us at (301) 474-6124.

Golden Age Club Members Celebrate At Annual Luncheon

by Mary Moien

Greenbelt Golden Age members celebrated their anniversary at a luncheon on April 15. It was a chance to meet and greet in a relaxed atmosphere with a lovely catered luncheon at the Holiday Inn in College Park. Pat DeShields did a wonderful job organizing the luncheon.

Greenbelt's own TGIF band provided the entertainment, featuring oldies and goodies with lots of singing along from those at the tables. The Golden Agers' own Barbara Stevens is the lead vocalist.

Greenbelt Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Weaver provided a welcome from the council, in the absence of the mayor who was on travel.



Attendees enjoy a chat at the Golden Age luncheon. Facing the camera, from left, are Marti Galvin, Ken Mahen, Ed Putens and Sandy Lee. Behind Sandy, Cathie Brannan is snapping another picture.



Doxie Prendergast, Rita Sayer and An Chung smile for the camera.



Eva and Jordan Choper dance to the music.



Music was provided throughout the Greenbelt Golden Age luncheon by the band TGIF. From left are John Annen, Debbie Annen, Barbara Stevens and Karl Neidhardt.

OSCAR WILDE'S

SALOME

RUDE MECHANICALS 1990S EDITION

- MAY 7-16, 2026 -

SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG FOR TICKETS!

Greenbelt Concert Band Brings An Afternoon of Disney Magic

by Li'l Dan Celdran

The Greenbelt Concert Band (GCB) brought a touch of magic to the Community Center on Saturday, April 18 with its annual lively A Day with Disney & Instrument Garden event.

Beginning at 3 p.m., the free concert invited audiences of all ages to enjoy a fun-filled time of familiar Disney favorites. Attendees were encouraged to dress as their favorite Disney characters, while band members joined in the spirit with Disney-inspired headbands and accessories. The event reflects the band's ongoing mission to inspire, entertain and engage the community through accessible live music.

Thanks to a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation, percussion instruments and colorful dancing scarves were available for audience participation. Students from the National Honor Society at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) assisted with setup and breakdown, distributed instruments and scarves and led children in a joyful march to The Mickey Mouse March, waving scarves, shaking shakers and tapping rhythm sticks.

The program continued with selections from The Incredibles, followed by an interactive moment led by Director and Conductor Joan Rackey, who invited children to the microphone to share their favorite dinosaurs before the band performed music from Jurassic Park. Instrument sections were

showcased during Disney Around the Bandroom, followed by Up, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Disney at the Movies and Great Movie Marches. The concert concluded with children of all ages marching around the gym in celebration.

Families and music lovers filled the venue, enjoying the nostalgic and upbeat atmosphere. A highlight of the day was the Instrument Garden held after the performance where children had the opportunity to meet the musicians, explore and try instruments up close sparking curiosity and a love for music.

Special thanks go to the Greenbelt Community Foundation for supporting our project Engaging Young Audiences Through Music Participation, the City of Greenbelt, ERHS National Honor Society students and Greenbelt Access Television for filming the performance.

Founded in 1937, the Greenbelt Concert Band remains a cultural staple in our community, offering free concerts throughout the year, and creating welcoming and engaging musical experiences for all. Saturday's event was an example of the band's commitment to community engagement, blending performance and hands-on learning into an afternoon that was fun, interactive and memorable for all.

Li'l Dan Celdran is a percussion player in and the general manager of the Greenbelt Concert Band.



Some little people have taken up residence in a tree along the lake path.

Happy 98th Birthday

John Henry Jones

May 6th

The family of John Henry Jones invites you to parade or pop by for a short birthday hello at 14 A Ridge Road.

Scan the QR code to send him a birthday video message.

Wed May 6th
12-12:30pm or 7-7:30pm

May Day Celebrates Bread and Roses. So Does the GLDF Cipriano Award

by Lisa Stand

May 1 marks the first of two days in the year that celebrate working people and victories for labor rights. Labor Day, of course, is the second. Both holidays center working people in our society. Both highlight our collective need to have a full, meaningful life after the work day and the work week end. Eight hours off, for people “to do as they will,” as the slogan goes. May 1 was chosen as a traditional spring holiday long celebrated by agricultural laborers in much of the world. In the U.S., Labor Day is the U.S. national holiday set about halfway between Memorial Day and Thanksgiving.

The familiar phrase bread and roses also elevates working people in society as well as the economy and suggests that workers deserve the benefits of both. Bread and roses was the slogan chanted in 1912 when women in Lawrence, Mass., marched for better wages and conditions in textile factories. Bread and roses, as the poem by James Oppenheim goes, signify that the women were striking



The Roofers by Dave Campbell

PHOTO BY DAVE CAMPBELL

against both literal starvation and starvation of the heart. The words affirm that “art and love and beauty” must also be part of workers’ efforts to improve our lives.

These days, the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival celebrates art and beauty through the annual community art show. The show displays artwork of all sizes, shapes and media, created

by Greenbelt artists of all ages. There is no one theme of the show, and subjects range from Greenbelt sights and scenery to favorite pets, pop figures and dramatic landscapes. This year, as last year, will also feature music played by ensembles of the Greenbelt Community Orchestra.

In addition, the show bestows the Cipriano Award, which recognizes and displays one stand-out entry that portrays people working. The award memorializes one of Greenbelt’s best friends, “Pop” Cipriano, who at one time worked as a carpenter for the City of Greenbelt.

Last year, the winning entry was The Roofers, a painting that captures a moment of dignity and value in people at work in an iconic Greenbelt neighborhood. Dave Campbell, who painted The Roofers, is often seen around Old Greenbelt with his camera, looking for subjects that appeal to him. He says, “Making a project of painting a picture of people working was a challenge to try something I hadn’t done before. I enjoyed the opportunity to paint an image that honors people making their honest living or otherwise using their time to serve through their work.” Receiving the Cipriano was a special honor, he says, and adds that the award has boosted his confidence as an artist.

Lisa Stand coordinates the Art Show for the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

Mary Lou's Garden Party



Among the many visitors to Mary Lou’s garden party on April 26: from the right are William with his grandmother Angie Noyes, Jordan with granddad Mike Noyes, Connie Roy-Fisher, Meredith Jolly and her grandmother Mary Lou.



- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

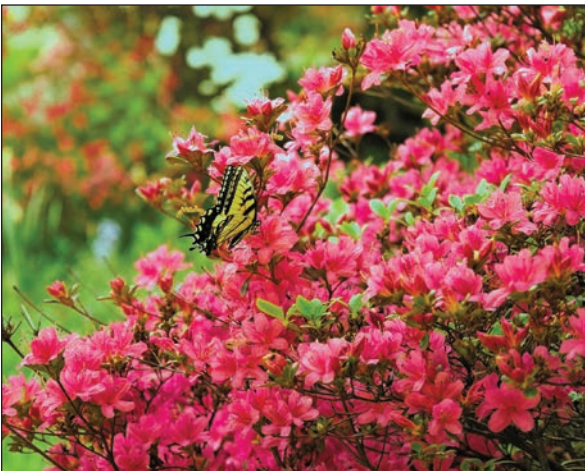
Artful Afternoon: Tour, Sale and Free Activities

Art fans of all ages are invited to attend Greenbelt Recreation’s Artful Afternoon, a spring Art Studio Open House and Sale on Sunday, May 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center. Tour the studios of the Center’s eight artists in residence on the third floor and see their latest creations. Several participating artists will have fine art and elevated function wares available for purchase. Enjoy a variety of demonstrations, including the potter’s wheel (third floor); stop-motion animation in the Greenbelt Access Television studio (second floor); and book-making, watercolor, weaving and more (first floor). Guests can reserve their seat in advance for the free craft activity (with seatings at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.); weaving paper into a colorful wall hanging. Sign up at sugeni.us/enFb.

See the current exhibition in the art gallery, where family stories meet dreamscapes in Tinam Valk’s mixed media compositions. Enjoy an additional special exhibit of work by community artists in the lobby, where guests can also chat with members of the Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board.

GVFD to Hold Indoor Community Yard Sale

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department will have an indoor community yard sale on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fire station, 125 Crescent Road. To make a table reservation or for further information, call Kathy at 301-351-7496. Food and beverage will be available for purchase.



A butterfly lands on an azalea bush.



A fishing rod is left attached to a tree stump.

- Photos by Nick Hall NH

See NDC Art Display Through Saturday

On display now through Saturday, May 2, the New Deal Café has an exhibit titled Viewpoint in a Circle featuring entirely new work from artist Eileen Murray-Kraft.

Over the past two years, Murray-Kraft has created a wide array of collages using a unique medium: six-inch circular watercolor card stock. Her artistic process evolved to fit the compact space of her GHI “cottage,” demonstrating adaptability and creativity. Her creations draw inspiration from the natural world, everyday items and the dynamic relationships between colors and textures found in her environment. Murray-Kraft’s passion for trying out different materials and techniques keeps her art vibrant and ever-changing.



Nugent & Kash
OF COMPASS

Andrew and Kim are putting the finishing touches on half a dozen new listings in Greenbelt!

If you are considering a purchase, this is your time! Prices and rates are both stabilizing --while rent continues to rise.

Let us help you to find your home.

Kim Kash & Andrew Nugent

kim.kash@compass.com
m: 301.789.6294
andrew.nugent@compass.com
m: (301) 814-8010

660 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 401
Washington DC 20003 | O: 202.545.6900

Nugent & Kash named the 2026 Face of Prince George’s County Real Estate by Washingtonian Magazine.



COMPASS



Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Virginia and Maryland. 660 Pennsylvania Avenue SE Suite 300 Washington, DC 20003 | 202.545.6900

This \$17.25 ad prints 7000 times. That is \$0.0025 per paper.

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Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

CANDIDATES continued from page 1

one of the most diverse communities in the region, and with that diversity comes a responsibility to ensure equity in how resources are distributed and accessed. We cannot ignore the fear and distrust caused by increased ICE activity. Many families are living with uncertainty and are hesitant to seek help, report crimes or access essential services. That's why I support measures like CB-5-2026 through CB-8-2026, which strengthen privacy protections, limit local involvement in federal immigration enforcement, and ensure County resources are focused on serving residents not creating fear.

The county needs smart equitable development. For too long, we have seen major economic opportunities pass us by, while residents demand good-paying jobs, transit-oriented growth and a stronger commercial tax base. For example, bringing the FBI headquarters to Greenbelt would be transformative: creating jobs, improving infrastructure, and signaling that the county is ready to compete for major federal investment.

What is your stance on data centers?

As a business leader in tech and the former Mayor of Bowie, I recognize that Maryland is at a crossroads. While data centers offer economic potential, we cannot allow innovation to become a mask for environmental neglect or social inequity. True progress isn't measured by server racks, it's measured by the health of our neighborhoods. We must ensure that minority communities are not disproportionately burdened by industrial noise and diesel emissions. These residents deserve a seat at the table. Furthermore, we must protect our families from the hidden tax of rising utility rates. It is fundamentally unfair to ask Maryland ratepayers to subsidize the massive infrastructure required by multi-billion-dollar corporations.

Juliet Agocha

Agocha is a cybersecurity professional, software engineer and small business owner. She previously worked at College Board and Accenture Federal Services and founded a technology company serving small businesses. She holds a bachelor's degree in information science and cybersecurity from Columbia Southern University, a master's degree in cybersecurity from American Public University and a Ph.D. in leadership from the University of the Cumberlands.

What are two important issues facing Prince George's county?

"The first is the high cost of living and housing affordability. While our county is full of opportunity, wages have not always kept pace with costs.

I have partnered with a local nonprofit to support monthly in-home grocery deliveries for our seniors. During the 2025 government shutdown, we helped feed

200 District 4 residents.

We face an aging housing stock and not enough affordable, accessible housing options for families, seniors and young adults who want to remain in the communities they love. When elected, I will focus on expanding housing near transit, preserving existing homes, and ensuring that working people can afford to live in the communities they help sustain without high taxes.

The second is transportation and community safety. Residents deserve safe streets, reliable transit and shorter, more predictable commutes. Our seniors deserve to get to their appointments safely, and our children deserve clean recreational parks. Transportation is not just about infrastructure — it is about connecting people to jobs, schools, healthcare and opportunity in a safe way."

What is your stance on data centers?

"Data centers can play a role in economic growth, but they must be developed responsibly and with the residents at the center. I support development that strengthens our tax base and creates opportunity, but not at the expense of our residents' quality of life. Any project must be evaluated through the lens of real community impact and long-term sustainability.

I have heard directly from many residents, and the majority are not in support of the data center. I will take a careful, evidence-based approach to every proposal — reviewing impacts on energy costs, water usage, noise, environmental health and long-term community effects. Based on the data publicly available and the concerns residents shared with me, my current position is not to support data center development, and I will continue to stay rooted in community voices and prioritize the needs of my constituents. Any data center in the county must meet strong standards for energy use, water impact, health impact, noise mitigation and environmental responsibility, and it must provide tangible benefits back to the community."

Euniesha Davis

Davis is the director of National Programs for AARP and the former head of the Prince George's County Office of Community Relations. She has more than 15 years of experience in government and nonprofit leadership, including roles at United Way and The Links. Davis holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and two master's degrees from the University of Maryland Global Campus and the University of Baltimore.

What are two important issues facing Prince George's County?

"Government must balance affordability with economic development for the county to move forward. District 4 is uniquely positioned, anchored by Greenbelt and Bowie — two well-resourced

municipalities with strong administrative capacity. By directing public investment through these cities, we can efficiently support community-driven economic development strategies already tailored to local needs.

At the same time, rising costs are pushing longtime residents — especially seniors — out of the communities they helped build. We must establish clear guardrails so growth does not come at the expense of affordability. That means supporting aging in place, protecting working families, and avoiding new fees that burden residents.

Smart solutions that I support include allowing accessory dwelling units, encouraging grayfield redevelopment, strengthening the Right of First Refusal program, preserving access to care for the uninsured, setting fair wage standards, and cutting unnecessary red tape that slows small business growth."

What is your stance on data centers?

"Prince George's County is already home to several data centers, but the voice of the people is clear: no new data center should be authorized without clear, tangible protections and benefits for existing communities. The concern at hand is the unchecked proliferation of so-called hyperscale data centers, which sought to be built skirting existing environmental review, potentially causing harm to existing and future communities. Demonstrably, the harm caused by such developments has been real across the country and residents are correct to express vigilance and continue to push back. Prince Georgians deserve a voice at the table. Prince Georgians don't want to live 100 feet away from a four-story tall, gray, continuously humming box. They shouldn't have to. Prince Georgians don't want to pay to energize unwarranted digital surveillance and inane Grok queries. They shouldn't have to."



School News

PGCPS Wins National Award: Improving Indoor Air Quality

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has earned the National Grand Prize in the 2026 Magna Awards for its work in improving indoor air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Sponsored by the National School Boards Association (NSBA), the award recognizes PGCPS as the top school system in the nation with over 20,000 students to successfully integrate environmental health into student achievement goals.

The award highlights the district's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) management plan. "Recognizing the direct link between a healthy school environment and student well-being, the district prioritizes support of healthy IAQ through its dedicated Environmental Office," said NSBA in its announcement of the award to PGCPS. "The plan will help the district meet the goals of creating healthy indoor environments for staff and students," said NSBA. These efforts are a central pillar of the PGCPS Climate Change Action Plan, an initiative established in 2021 to transition the district toward a sustainable, low-carbon future, said PGCPS.

"Our Climate Action Plan is a moral obligation to the 'whole child.' By prioritizing air quality and sustainability, we are removing barriers to wellness and ensuring our facilities support the academic excellence our community deserves," said Interim Superintendent Dr. Shawn Joseph.

The Sustainability and Resilience Office of PGCPS has institutionalized air quality monitoring and emission-reduction strategies.

The Magna Awards have recognized exemplary school district programs for more than three decades. The 2026 program specifically focused on districts that demonstrated measurable progress in environmental health and carbon footprint reduction.

District leaders will present their award-winning strategies at the NSBA Annual Conference and Exposition, held April 10 to 12 in San Antonio, Texas. PGCPS also is featured in the April issue of the American School Board Journal (nsba.org/resources/asbj/asbj-april-2026/april-2026-magna-awards).

Information for this article was drawn from PGCPS and NSBA press releases.



PHOTO BY SHEILA MAFFAY-TUTHILL

The Greenbelt Museum welcomed the Art Deco Society of Washington for a museum visit and walking tour this past Saturday, April 25. The rain held off, and Dr. Isabelle Gournay (at center, in red) was available to lend her expertise on the architectural and planning history of Greenbelt.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on May 7, 2026

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on April 2, 2026
- b) Financial Matters
- c) Contract Matters
- d) Legal Matters
- e) Personnel Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on April 2, 2026
- b) Statements of Closed Meetings Held on April 16, 2026 and May 7, 2026
- c) ARC Exception 7-Woodland Way
- d) Yardi Task Force In-Person Meeting (s) Request
- e) Sustainability Committee Member Maintenance Recommendations
- f) Lawn Maintenance Update
- g) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on May 21, 2026

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uugzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Nonprofit?
Get your
message here for
\$24.30
www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

UKRAINE continued from page 1



Members of Ukraine’s Parliament meet with members of Greenbelt City Council. Pictured from left: Conference Interpreter and Translator Peter Voitsekhovsky, Frank Gervasi of Greenbelt Refugee Aid, Ukraine Member of Parliament Anna Purtova, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Members of Parliament Oksana Dmytriieva and Iryna Nykorak, Greenbelt Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Frankie Fritz, Member of Parliament Valerii Bozhyk, City Manager Josué Salmerón and Member of Parliament Volodymyr Kabachenko

members, compared to our seven who receive a small stipend. Only their mayor receives any pay. Yet, despite having other jobs, they spend up to 70 percent of their time on council matters, explained Iryna Nykorak, who was elected to Parliament as a candidate for the European Solidarity Party and previously served as a member of Kyiv City Council. State budget pays teacher salaries but the city can supplement pay for teachers and doctors, they explained, as they discussed education. “It’s difficult but people still wake up in the morning and have to go to school, to take children to kindergarten,” said Purtova of educational planning efforts. They also have no local police force; all are under federal control. These are holdover systems from Soviet days they want to correct.

One member of Parliament told the News Review they also have a federalized press in Ukraine during this period of martial law. She expressed hope that freedom of the press could be encouraged after the war.

Another of the visiting parliamentary members remarked on our Community Center bas reliefs which struck him as communistic. We had to assure him that

was just artistry, and the visitors appreciated the message of our Constitution’s preamble.

The visit was hosted by the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee, which is active in Ukraine supporting families who have lost their homes and belongings and with assisting various orphanages.

A Sister City?

When asked could a Greenbelt-like city be built in Ukraine, Purtova, said “yes, definitely”. She then went on to elaborate, as follows:

“This week, I had the honor of visiting Greenbelt, Maryland, in my capacity as a Member of the Parliament of Ukraine. During my time here, I was deeply impressed by the city’s unique history and its innovative approach to community life. I saw many practical solutions that could be invaluable for the recovery of my country. This visit has inspired me to advocate for a sister-city partnership between Greenbelt and a city in the Kyiv region. My goal is to build a bridge between our nations so that our youth can see the vast opportunities the world has to offer and gain the knowledge necessary to build a modern, thriving Ukraine.”

Purtova says Greenbelt is a

uniquely well-positioned choice for a partnership. “Greenbelt is more than just a suburb of Washington, D.C.; it was born from a vision of resilience during the Great Depression. For a city in the Kyiv region currently undergoing reconstruction, Greenbelt’s legacy as a “city for the people” focused on urban sustainability and social cooperation is an invaluable model,” said Purtova. “Additionally, its proximity to the U.S. capital and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center creates a unique gateway for academic and technological exchange.” They also expressed interest in cultural exchange.

Pillars for Rebuilding

Purtova identified three key pillars that could inform rebuilding in the Ukraine. They include Sustainable Urban Planning: Implementing Greenbelt’s “garden city” principles, such as separating pedestrian paths from traffic. Education and Science: Establishing STEM exchange programs for youth – “I want our students to learn from the best, and having NASA in Greenbelt’s backyard provides a world-class opportunity for that,” said Purtova; and Community Resilience: Adopting Greenbelt’s historical practices of cooperative living and social support to help our people heal and rebuild their lives after the war. “We are looking for an intellectual partnership. Greenbelt is a living example of how smart, human-centric planning can create a safe environment even with limited resources. By bringing these ideas to the Kyiv region, we aren’t just rebuilding buildings; we are building a higher quality of life,” said Purtova. “My main hope is for our youth. After everything they have endured, they deserve to see the world’s possibilities. This partnership is about giving them the chance to learn, to grow and to bring the best global practices back home. It is a bridge between our shared resilience and a bright, organized future.”

Donate Books To Novel Endings

Novel Endings bookstore at the Greenbelt Library accepts donations of gently used books. The store particularly welcomes donations of popular adult fiction, children’s books, sci-fi, fantasy, mystery, classics, non-diet cookbooks, science topics geared to the general public and vintage books.

Popular magazines and hobby magazines, especially those published within the past two years, are accepted. Vintage magazines are also welcome.

Books must be clean and pages not browned with age, torn or heavily marked or underlined with comments. Do not bring books that are moldy, sticky, smelly or missing pages or covers. Missing dust-jackets are not a problem.

The bookstore cannot use books or magazines that are diet-themed, encyclopedias, technical, academic or professional.

To donate books, email friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com. Please do not bring book donations to the circulation front desk or Novel Endings. Cash and check donations are accepted in the blue box next to the Library’s front desk. Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.

Registration Open For Peace Camp

Little Friends for Peace (LFFP) will hold its fifth annual Peace Camp at Greenbelt Community Church this July 20 to 24. Peace Camp is a week-long summer camp for children ages 5 to 14 to learn skills for cooperation, nonviolent communication, empathy and problem solving through Peace Circles, art, music, cooperative games, a Peace Museum and other peace tools. LFFP Co-Directors MJ and Jerry Park have led Peace Camps in Minnesota and the Washington, D.C. area annually since 1981.

In the past 10 years, LFFP has reached 3,700 children through more than 83 Peace Camps, and post-camp surveys have found a 40 percent increase in camper ability to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Information on registration, as well as applications for Peace Camp counselor and junior counselor positions (ages 15+), can be found at LFFP.org/peacecamp.

Community Art Weekly Meet-Ups

Enjoy two free weekly meet-ups at the Community Center. Yarn & Darn meets on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring a knitting, crocheting, embroidery, cross stitch or other fiber art project to work on in a relaxing environment.

Craft and Create, a group for ages 18+, meets on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a project in progress, or enjoy a new themed project each week. Bring personal supplies, or use what the group members provide. Both groups meet in the Community Center, Room 113. For more information, email alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov or mcason@greenbeltmd.gov. For more information about Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.



Mahjong Group Meets Weekly on Wednesdays

The Greenbelt Mahjong Group meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Senior Game Room in the Community Center. Instructional classes are offered periodically. Check the Recreation Activity Guide for details.

City Notes

Legislative and Public Information (PI) met with a Ukrainian delegation and Economic Development visited DMV Pizza. Human Resources (HR) onboarded three communications specialists and a police officer. Information Technology (IT) supervised camera installation at Schrom Hills.

PI, HR, IT, Recreation and Environmental welcomed kids on Bring Your Child to Work Day. Code Enforcement inspected 21 commercial properties and 25 rentals and issued nine permits. Planning assisted a resident with an eviction notice and, with Public Works, cleaned up a vandalized bus shelter.

Animal Shelter residents are seven cats, seven kittens and two dogs, with no adoptions. The spay/neuter grant ended March 31.

Environmental welcomed 10 Montessori students and three parents doing service on Earth Day at Buddy Attick Park, removing invasive plants and installing 10 shrubs. Horticulture prepared the greenhouse for flower delivery. Mechanics attended Hazard Mitigation Training.

Recreation and Museum directors presented Recreation budgets before the City Council.

The Community Center hosted a CARES/Greenbelt Assistance in Living program food distribution.



Volunteer to Drive For GIVES

Want to meet fellow Greenbelters and help them out at the same time? The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) always needs volunteers, especially drivers. Choose when and where you will drive (within the 10-mile limit) and if you are also willing and able to help with carrying groceries or other packages.

To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES (membership is free), have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and pass a background check. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

Earth Day Activities



On Saturday, April 25, volunteers took to Greenbelt Lake in Buddy Attick Park by kayak and canoe and worked onshore to remove litter and to plant native species along the shoreline.

City staff from Public Works and Recreation teamed up with Venture Crew 746 and the Greenbelt Rotary Club to lead the environmental restoration project and celebrate Earth Day.

GHI Candidates Forum

See which of your neighbors are running, learn their views, and ask questions!

7:30pm Tuesday May 5
Municipal Building
25 Crescent Road

Watch Live from your couch!
See viewing options at www.greenbeltmd.gov under “Municipal Access TV”

5pm Tuesday May 5
Final deadline to declare candidacy for Board of Directors, Audit Committee, or Nominations & Elections

7:30pm Thursday May 14
Annual Membership Meeting
Community Center Gym. Must attend in person to participate.

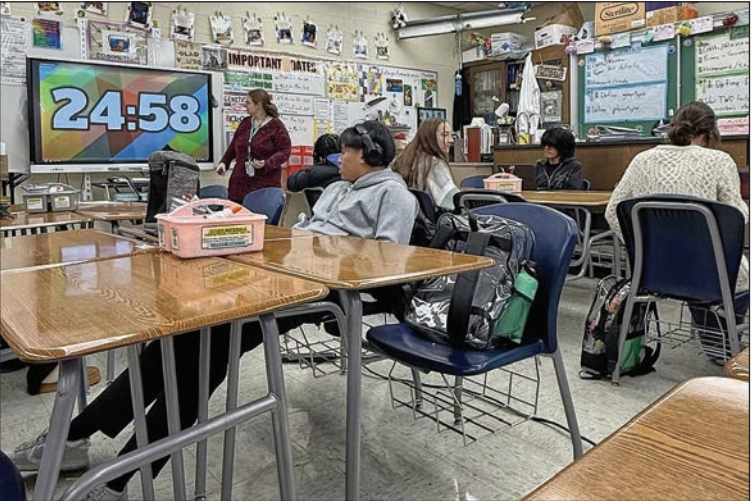
Thursday & Friday May 14–15
Vote online at your convenience!
Or in-person Thursday after the meeting or Friday 4–8pm at GHI!

Questions?
Visit www.ghi.coop/election
email GHI.NominationsAndElections@gmail.com
or call N&E Chair Tom Jones: 301-474-6001

School News

Are Advisory Sessions Effective?
Students and Teachers Comment

by Riley Galloway



An ERHS teacher leads an advisory session.

This school year, Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) implemented a new system mandating bi-weekly advisory periods across all high schools. The policy aims to foster a more connected and positive community, while also educating students on important subjects. So far, sessions at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) have covered a variety of topics, including dual (high school and college) enrollment, anti-bullying, quarter one reflections and information on hunger and homelessness.

However, initial student opinions on these sessions have been overwhelmingly negative. Many students feel these sessions are ineffective and think there could be a better use of this designated time.

For students, the main complaint is repetition and a lack of realistic value. Tahara Camara, an ERHS senior, expresses her frustration: “Advisory hasn’t really benefited me that much, because it’s repetitive topics that we go over in the code of conduct assemblies, and it has gotten to a point where it just starts to bore a lot of the kids.” Camara suggests that this time should be used to implement topics on essential life skills. She feels it is crucial to teach students more about “how to budget, manage credit scores or explain finance vocabulary like interest, as these are topics many students leave high school not having any knowledge on.” She highlights that she has seen no significant improvement within the ERHS environment since advisory began.

Senior Glory Audu bluntly calls the sessions “a waste of classroom time.” She points out successful models that take place at other schools, such as Charles Herbert Flowers High School’s Power Hour as a more beneficial alternative. “Power Hour provides students a period of rest, reflection and catching up on missing work.” Audu argues that implementing sessions like these at ERHS that allow for “extra studying time” could reduce stress and decrease the number of students skipping class because they feel unprepared for an upcoming test or deadline. She adds that since advisory began, the ERHS com-

munity has experienced “zero change” and suggests a possible decline with an increase in fights and “rowdy” student behavior.

On the other hand, some faculty believe advisory periods have the potential to be valuable with student engagement and a more inclusive curriculum.

Kendrick Trader, a history teacher at ERHS, feels that advisory can be beneficial to students, but argues that students are not taking it seriously. He believes appreciation would increase by “having topics that they care about.” Trader proposes adding more content on useful topics like college preparation, financial literacy, storytelling and entrepreneurship advice. Regarding financial literacy, he emphasizes that students could “learn about ways to grow money through investments, stocks, bonds and real estate,” addressing their current lack of education on such important topics. He also highlights the ERHS community creativity, noting that “allowing students the opportunity to tell their stories in artistic ways is always a good thing.”

When asked about Audu’s suggestion of a Power Hour session, Trader agrees. He stresses the importance of mental health days and the importance of “reset and refresh” days as school can be extremely demanding on both students and teachers.

PGCPS’s intent to create a stronger, more positive community is on the right track. However, the current execution appears to be missing the mark and leading to widespread student disapproval. It is clear that students and teachers share a common vision for a more useful advisory time that would engage the students while providing them with beneficial support.

If PGCPS integrated student and teacher feedback directly into the curriculum design it could avoid wasted time. Gathering opinions on session content is the most direct path to increasing effectiveness, participation and achieving the goal of building a stronger, more engaged student body.

Riley Galloway is an ERHS student writing for the Raider Review where this article first appeared.

INTERN continued from page 1

ourselves and talking. You could tell who was VIP by the suits wearing a serious face surrounding them, their bodyguards.” President Trump was seated to the far left of the stage table while Laura was at the third table from the stage, on the right-hand side. Her seat was some distance from the president but not far from the stage, she says.

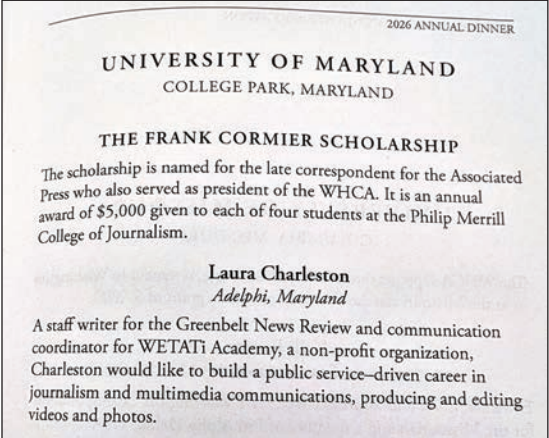
The guests were allowed to enter the dining room at around 7 p.m., Laura recalls. An hour and a half later, the gunshots went off.

The Aftermath

Footage of the room shared by news organizations shows Vice President Vance and President Trump being evacuated from the stage. Other guests were instructed to take shelter. “If you did not have any Secret Service or bodyguards tending to you, you were told to get down,” says Laura. “They began evacuating politicians and celebrities immediately.” In a room full of journalists, approximately 30 to 40 minutes after hearing shots, at what Laura estimates was around 9 p.m., an increasing number of reporters felt comfortable moving around; they “began recording, photographing and interviewing people or calling their editors,” recalls Laura.

Laura’s first call was to her younger brother to let him know she was all right. Later, she called her mother, not sure how much was being reported about the event already and not wanting her to panic.

Around 9 p.m., Weijia Jiang, president of the White House Correspondents’ Association (WHCA), informed the guests that both a shooter and the president had been evacuated. A few minutes later, she announced President Trump wished to return and the dinner would resume. They were instructed to return to their tables, says Laura, but a final announcement, around 9:50



Laura Charleston featured in the White House Correspondents’ Dinner program.

p.m., stated that, for security reasons, the event was canceled.

Reporting the Event

After the panic had subsided University of Maryland Dean of Journalism Rafael Lorente, who was also in the room, approached Laura and asked if she wanted to help with reporting the event. “Of course, I agreed,” said Laura. She interviewed three reporters from Politico and two from Reuters. “Christi Parsons, director of Capital News Service (CNS) D.C. Bureau, was there to guide me and the other UMD students (also scholarship recipients) who were reporting. We had an article out by 12 a.m. Sunday morning,” says Laura. The article Laura co-authored was published by CNS Maryland and can be found at tinyurl.com/yh57698s.

Security

Asked about the security at the event, Laura described it as disappointing. The shooter was a guest at the hotel, but even if he hadn’t been, Laura still believes he would have had multiple opportunities to enter. Though there were D.C. Police patrol officers blocking traffic around the event, when Laura entered the area, she was simply asked if she was attending the event or not, or if she was a guest at the hotel. There was no request for ID and no pat-down, she says. A few times, people who were neither guests of the hotel nor the

event passed her and were stopped and questioned. In front of the hotel, she had to produce her paper invitation for the dinner. “Again, no ID check or form of security check of my bag or pat-down,” she recalls. “If you were a guest, your name was on a paper spreadsheet.” Once inside the hotel, guests of the Correspondents’ Dinner were escorted downstairs. There were guards everywhere, says Laura, but still no ID check and no bag check.

“It wasn’t until 7 p.m. when we were moved into the reception area that I had to walk through a metal detector, and my bag was checked. TSA and other security members were completing this. It was the only professional security check the entire night, and this was only one floor above the dining room where we would be eating.” This was the area where the gunman was apprehended, says Laura, two flights of stairs away from the dining room. “Two flights of stairs and he could’ve fired toward the room where we were all seated,” she reflects.

Eventful Evening

It was an eventful evening, even though she never received her certificate. Did she ever get to eat that evening, we asked. “I had a small salad – Spring Pea and Burrata Salad with bread. That is all. I hadn’t eaten anything that day and was looking forward to dinner,” she said. It would have been lobster.

Though President Trump stated on Saturday he wants the dinner rescheduled within 30 days, Laura hasn’t heard anything official from the WHCA yet about her scholarship certificate or when she might receive it, or if there’ll be another opportunity to celebrate with a lobster dinner.



Green Ridge House Opens Wait List

Green Ridge House, the City of Greenbelt’s HUD Section 8-202 apartment building, will open its waiting list from Monday, May 11 through 15, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Applications will not be accepted after 4:00 p.m. each day. Green Ridge House is an independent living apartment building located at 22 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. All applicants must apply in person and be 62 years of age or older.

There are two new HUD guidelines that must now be followed. First, guidelines now state that any applicant wishing to be added to the waiting list **cannot** own any property (i.e., home, condo, land, etc.). If an applicant owns any property, it must already be listed for sale by a realtor and a contract must be provided when the application is filled out. Second, an applicant cannot have more than \$100,000 in total assets (liquid assets, i.e., checking, savings, CD’s, money market, IRA, 401k, etc.).

All applicants must have with them a valid State ID or Driver’s License and their Social Security card. We cannot accept an application without these two items. All applicants will have a credit and criminal background check performed to determine eligibility. Applicants should be prepared to move within 30 days once they receive a call that a unit is available. Rent is based upon 30 percent of one’s income within a maximum gross income of \$57,400 for individuals and \$65,600 for couples. All apartments are one-bedroom units. Only applicants who would consider moving within the next 6 months to one year should apply. Green Ridge House is a Non-Smoking Building. Green Ridge House follows Federal HUD Guidelines with regards to smoking compliance which prohibits marijuana use, medical or otherwise on its properties. Therefore, regardless of any other permitted use by either prescription, State or local law, or any mechanism that permits medical marijuana use, such medical marijuana use is not permitted on any part of Green Ridge House property.

Glenn Ivey Visits Meals On Wheels, Delivering in Greenbelt

by Karen Yoho

U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey (D-Md.) visited Meals on Wheels of College Park (MOWCP) on Monday, April 6 to see how the organization provides nutritious meals and vital safety checks to county residents.

“Great to spend the morning with Meals on Wheels of College Park in Greenbelt delivering meals and connecting with seniors in our community,” said Ivey. “This work is about more than food, it’s about care, connection and making sure our neighbors can continue living safely at their own home.”

Formed in 1974 to feed a small number of elderly and homebound people in College Park, the group now provides meal delivery to 150 seniors and people with disabilities five days a week. MOWCP serves adjoining cities and towns in Prince George’s County, including Greenbelt, Adelphi, Berwyn Heights, Hyattsville, Beltsville and Riverdale Park. “Clients receive a hot nutritious lunch/dinner, plus healthy options for breakfast, a light lunch or dinner meal and one half-gallon of milk (weekly),” explained Lisa Ealley, MOWCP president. “More importantly, in addition to ensuring nutritional needs, our caring volunteers perform a wellness check and provide a social link to the isolation they may face.”



Rep. Glenn Ivey meets with Meals on Wheels of College Park (MOWCP) president Lisa Ealley and volunteer Lee Fuerst at the MOWCP facility.

MOWCP volunteers serve in a wide variety of roles, from food preparation and meal packaging to delivering food to homes and managing the deliveries to ensure dietary requirements are met for those on restricted diets. Volunteers are always needed to fill in for an assortment of tasks and schedules are also varied, from monthly and weekly assignments to daily shifts. Those who would like to volunteer for the program or want more information can visit mealsonwheelsofcollegetpark.org. “Every piece of our operation relies on volunteers. From

sticking labels on bags to picking up donated food from farms and restaurants,” said Ealley. MOWCP is seeking the donation of a van or small truck to make these pickups easier.

“As we approach National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, we want to thank those who serve as volunteers, donate to MOWCP or refer clients to us,” added Ealley. “With their support, we can be a lifeline to those neighbors who are food insecure.”

Karen Yoho is a board member of Meals on Wheels of College Park.

Police Offer Guardian Program To Protect At-risk Children



Officer Graham presents at Springhill Lake Elementary School’s Special Education Festival on April 26.

On Sunday, April 26, Officer Kendall Graham attended the Special Education Festival at Springhill Lake Elementary School. Graham shared information about the Greenbelt Guardian Program, a proactive initiative designed to help protect children who may be at risk of wandering or may need additional support when interacting with first responders.

The Greenbelt Guardian Program is a voluntary registry that allows families to share important information about their child ahead of time, “so if an emergency ever occurs, officers can respond faster, communicate more effectively and ensure safer outcomes.”

For more information or to join the registry visit greenbeltnmd.gov/guardian.



Doctors Medical Center Breaks Ground on Women’s Pavilion

Luminis Health celebrated the official groundbreaking of a new Women’s Health Pavilion at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC). The 67,000-square-foot pavilion will include inpatient obstetric care, such as labor, delivery and postpartum services, along with expanded specialty care offerings to support patients before, during and after pregnancy.

The three-story, state-of-the-art facility will include private labor and delivery rooms, dedicated C-section operating rooms, midwife supported birthing suites, postpartum and nursery units, Level II Special Care Nursery, future shell space for expanding women’s services and a rooftop helipad with direct access to the Emergency Department.

Prince George’s County is home to nearly one million resi-

dents, yet 8 in 10 women leave the county to deliver their babies due to limited access to obstetrical care. Black women in the region also face disproportionately high maternal mortality rates, approximately 50 percent higher than the national average.

Construction is underway, with expanded women’s health services scheduled to launch in late 2028. Once fully operational, LHDCMC expects to deliver approximately 2,000 babies each year.

The project also features major upgrades to core clinical and support areas of the hospital, including modernized operating rooms, interventional radiology, sterile processing, redesigned Emergency Department, expanded laboratory and food and nutrition spaces, and major utility and infrastructure improvements.



Volunteer Lee Fuerst and Rep. Ivey load a vehicle with meals for delivery.



Rep. Ivey and volunteer Lee Fuerst deliver meals to Green Ridge House.

- Photos courtesy Rep. Ivey

CARES Needs Fund Donations

The Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be a safety net for Greenbelters in a financial crisis whatever the reason. Those who are able can help by donating to the fund.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to GreenbeltMD.gov, click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is for the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up with a form to enter credit card or PayPal information.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.



Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge

The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Wednesdays through Saturdays except on federal holidays. Sessions start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. May’s theme is Insects/Ants.

Registration is strongly recommended. Call 301-497-5772. Visit fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center for more information.

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We Are Local, & We Serve All Counties in Maryland

International Flavor, Family Focus Will Drive Beltway Plaza’s Future

by Laura Charleston

Beltway Plaza is doubling down on small, culturally diverse businesses and family-friendly entertainment as part of a long-term strategy to keep the mall relevant in a changing retail landscape. With new international dining options and community-centered attractions underway, management and tenants say the mall’s future depends on maintaining its identity as a local, welcoming hub.

For more than two decades, Quantum Companies has shaped Beltway Plaza into what Vice President of Operations Kenny Wine describes as a community-first shopping center built on small businesses and cultural variety. “We have almost primarily small businesses,” Wine said. “There’s over 20 languages spoken by our tenants, which suggests there’s also probably that many languages of customers that visit them.”

Independent Businesses

That focus is central to how management decides which businesses to bring in. Rather than relying on national chains, Beltway Plaza emphasizes independently owned shops and restaurants that reflect the diversity of the surrounding community.

The strategy extends to food, a major pillar of the mall’s redevelopment efforts. A new food court, currently under construction, will introduce Indian, Jamaican, Thai and Colombian restaurants, expanding the plaza’s current international offerings. If all goes according to plan, it will be complete in June.

Engaging People

Wine said the goal is not just variety, but engagement. “We want to get people to try all the great, delicious food options that exist here that you might not think about,” Wine said.

To encourage that, management is planning initiatives such as a “food passport” program, where visitors can sample dishes from different restaurants and earn rewards, and a larger international food festival, aimed at drawing visitors from across the region and offering samples to customers hesitant to try something new. “The goal is to get people to try food that they might be intimidated by,” Wine said, noting that offering small samples can make new cultural experiences more approachable.



Nihit Cafe and Juice Bar owner Raja Kumar said the mall’s diversity and community feel have sustained his business for more than 25 years.

Community Feel

Longtime tenant Raja Kumar, owner of Bun Cafe and Nihit Cafe and Juice Bar, said the mall’s diversity and community feel are what have sustained his business for more than 25 years. Kumar’s commute from Virginia is a testament to his devotion to the Plaza. “This mall is actually a community mall,” Kumar said. “You see a lot of repeat people come into this mall. It’s very friendly.”

The mix of international food options and small businesses creates an environment that keeps customers returning. “They got a little bit of everything for everybody,” Kumar said. That consistency has allowed his business to evolve alongside changing consumer habits. What began as a cinnamon bun kiosk has expanded into a café and juice bar focused on healthier options, including smoothies, wraps and

cold-pressed juices, ensuring customers get the important nutrition they need. “These days, people [are] health conscious,” Kumar said. “People can just swing by and get their protein shakes or fruit salad or some natural juices, or pure natural energy.” Proximity to Planet Fitness and a steady stream of regular customers help sustain the business, while the mall’s accessibility, just off I-495, continues to attract visitors.

Coming Attractions

Beyond food, Beltway Plaza is investing heavily in family-oriented attractions to broaden its appeal. Plans include a trampoline park, a dance studio, a taekwondo facility and a future recreation center in partnership with the city. As part of that effort, the mall has secured a special exception from local zoning authorities to allow for a child care facility. “The community needs child care,” Wine said, adding that the goal is to provide an affordable and accessible option for families. The approval allows Beltway Plaza to expand its community services with organizations like Playtime Project, which is establishing a permanent presence to provide social services and engagement. “We want to be very family-friendly,” Wine said. “I want people doing constructive things with the mall.”

Unique Identity

Despite competition from larger, more modern shopping centers, Beltway Plaza’s identity is its advantage. “It’s very community driven, and it’s unlike anything anyone’s really seen,” Wine said.

As construction continues on

See BELTWAY, page 15

COUNCIL continued from page 1

reflects personnel costs. Varda said with 23 full-time employees, Recreation is fully staffed with no plans to add positions in FY 2027. However, with six employees having 25 to 30 years of service, transitions must be anticipated.

Recognition Groups, Others

McKinney asked how much space and time are used by recognition groups. Varda said that 2,143 hours of free space were used, with a value of \$67,000, and rental income can be missed because the spaces are unavailable. Varda added that all available space in city facilities is filled by recognition groups, community organizations, department programs and rentals. He surveyed the spaces and schedules before the meeting, and confirmed every place, indoor and outdoor, was completely packed.

Nonresident Participants

Pompi noted that 38 percent of summer campers are nonresidents, so more funding should come from county Park and Planning. Varda said the programs need nonresidents so he is proud that many come to Greenbelt.

Weaver asked if nonresident percentages have changed. Oudemans said program growth has been consistent, but may not continue given time and space limitations. While virtually all programs have nonresident participants, some fill with residents before nonresident registration opens; expanded accommodation depends on time and space available. She praised council’s motivation for more county funding for programs but also emphasized nonresident use of Greenbelt’s parks.

Jordan noted flat revenues and asked, given Greenbelt’s fantastic programs, if fees should be raised for nonresidents. Varda answered that summer camp fees are generally kept at a 15 percent spread between residents and nonresidents. Nonresidents have choices, and the county and other municipalities charge less. To stay

competitive is threading a needle: unfilled spaces represent lost revenue. Oudemans added that programming in Greenbelt West is subsidized to serve that community. In fact, free programming has increased throughout Greenbelt to serve everyone, including those with less disposable income.

SLRC Increase

McKinney, noting more programming at SLRC and seeing an increase projected for FY 2027, asked for specific numbers and targets. Oudemans referred to Active Aging and preschool programs. SLRC started opening at 10 a.m. on weekdays, convenient for active aging and preschoolers. SLRC’s vibrant after-school program now includes art instruction three times a week.

Greenbelt East Programs

Jordan asked about programs at Schrom Hills Park and Oudemans referred to her report on that facility, where small buildings limit indoor programming. Popular offerings include Summer Teen Extreme, raku ceramics and Fall Fest. Community groups like CHEARS, The SPACE, Boys and Girls Club, Little League, Greenbelt Baseball, Greenbelt Soccer and RUAK use the park. The renovated ball field features community open play and reserved games, with city Park Rangers providing supervision, and more activities would be possible with more funding. Salmerón praised Recreation’s well-prepared plan, regretting funding was not available in the budget.

Weaver asked for possibilities, if more funding were found. For Schrom Hills, Varda estimated \$26,000 for staff, monitoring and open hours in the recreation room. For augmenting Learn 2 Earn, Oudemans estimated \$32,000 to \$36,000. Seeking other Greenbelt East venues, Oudemans reported visiting HOAs and management at various developments, saying their focus solely on their own residents made collaboration

See COUNCIL, page 15



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred April 20-26, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported two sexual assaults and six domestic incidents, one leading to arrest. A firearm was turned in for destruction. A lost item was turned in. One girl was reported missing. A missing boy was found.

Assault

On April 20 at 8:56 a.m. near 9115 Springhill Lane, two girls were fighting on a Prince George's Transit bus. The girls' friendship deteriorated over social media postings. One girl was struck several times causing minor injuries. Officers found the other girl before she fled the area; she was returned to Eleanor Roosevelt High School, her guardian was contacted and she will be charged with 2nd degree assault.

On April 22 at 8:19 p.m. near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, two female acquaintances were involved in a disagreement that turned physical and both were advised on warrants.

Strong-arm Robbery

On April 22 at 4:59 p.m. near 5997 Springhill Drive, four boys and a girl assaulted another boy and took his designer sneakers, then got away on a Metrobus.

Break-in

On April 20 at 11:45 a.m. near 5829 Cherrywood Terrace, a man wearing black clothing and white sneakers tried to break into an apartment while a woman was inside. The man broke the lock on the door but when he couldn't get in, he fled.

On April 25 at 12:18 p.m. near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, a woman came home after a hospital stay to find items missing from her home and purse.

DUI Arrest

On April 24 at 12:44 a.m. near Frankfort Drive and Greenbelt Road, a man was found sleeping at the wheel, giving off a strong odor of alcohol. His vehicle had front-end damage and partial airbag deployment. He refused a field sobriety test and was arrested.

On April 26 at 7:31 p.m. near Southway and Greenbelt Road, a vehicle coming off the Parkway struck the curb and continued for 600 feet before it was disabled. The driver was arrested and charged with DUI.

Indecent Exposure

On April 22 at 1:22 a.m. near 9127 Edmonston Terrace, a man was lying in an apartment hallway, exposing and touching himself. He was arrested for indecent exposure and taken to the Greenbelt Police Department.

Fraud

On April 20 near 6301 Ivy Lane, someone fraudulently cashed a check from a company's bank account.

On April 22 near 9 Parkway, an electric utility account was fraudulently opened in someone's name.

On April 23 near 5335 Stream Bank Lane, a man was contacted on social media and scammed out of a large sum of money by people posing as Chinese police, who convinced him that he was under investigation for fraud. They said, among other things, that to retain a lawyer would cost him. This scam is nationally known.

Theft and Shoplifting

On April 20 at 9:19 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a repeat offender stole merchandise; at 11:40

a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a thief was positively identified and arrested for theft and trespassing and was taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections; at 2:42 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise.

On April 23 at 1:35 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise; at 5:55 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone stole a customer's clothing item from the cleaners.

On April 24 at 11:58 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a youth was stopped after stealing merchandise; the store declined to prosecute.

Trespassing Arrest

On April 20 at 6:56 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a previously banned woman who was acting disorderly was issued a criminal citation and escorted off the property.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

The following six vehicles were stolen: on April 20 near 6001 Cherrywood Court, a silver 2018 Hyundai (Md. 6GS7983); on April 21 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a gray 2024 Lexus IS (Md. 8GC0647); on April 23 near 9166 Edmonston road, a 2015 Dodge Charger (Md. 71605CK); on April 23 near 5917 Cherrywood Terrace, a gray 2014 Toyota Camry (Md. 3AX8690); on April 24 near 7815 Mandan Road, a 2019 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 9GR0777); and near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a Toyota Highlander (Md. 8GM9427).

On April 21 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a 2022 Honda Accord (Md. 9GP9537) was stolen at 4:21 a.m.; the thieves returned at 4:56 a.m. to steal a Lexus. A wallet inside the vehicle had a debit card that was used to make a \$255 online purchase.

On April 23 at 4:43 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone stole a black 2018 Ford Focus (Md. 3GD9533) left running and unoccupied.

Stolen Vehicle Recovered

On April 23 near 124 Westway, a 2012 Honda Civic stolen in Laurel was recovered.

Theft from Auto

Airbags were stolen on April 24 near 19 Hillside Road, and on April 25 from two Honda Civics, a 2025 near 7806 Greenbrook Drive, and a 2018 near 19 Hillside Road.

On April 21 near 6002 Springhill Drive, a 2014 Ford Focus had a tag stolen (Md. 5GB8343).

On April 22 near 5909 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2025 Honda CRV had the tires stolen.

Officers Receive Commendation In Arrest of Armed Man at Metro



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Pictured from left are Sgt. Potts, MPO Fahey, Cpl. Kipke, Communications Specialist Gignac, Ofc. Godish, and Ofc. Dessalines.

Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers awarded communications specialists and several officers a Class 2 Commendation for their efforts in arresting an armed suspect.

At approximately 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, Greenbelt Police officers responded to the Greenbelt Metro Station after receiving a report of an armed individual observed on security cameras waving a handgun (see the March 12 issue). Communication specialists provided timely and accurate updates, allowing officers to coordinate an effective response.

Upon arrival, the officers executed a tactical approach. When the suspect refused commands and reached toward his waistband, officers deployed a Taser, safely gaining compliance. The suspect was taken into custody, and a handgun was recovered from his person. Additionally, a second individual was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

This incident highlights excellent teamwork, communication and sound decision-making in a potentially life-threatening situation, said Bowers. The officers' restraint and effective use of less-lethal force ensured a safe resolution.



Officers Receive Appreciation For Apprehending Juvenile, Gun



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Officers pictured from left: Carranza, Sandoval, Fahey, Alvarez, Roberson, Leathery and Chief Richard Bowers.

On Monday, April 20, Chief Richard Bowers awarded several officers with a Letter of Appreciation for their efforts during a saturation detail in the Franklin Park area. While on patrol, the officers observed a group of juveniles known for their prior involvement in violent crimes, including armed robberies.

As the officers approached, the group fled on foot. The officers pursued one individual and noted indicators suggesting that the suspect might be armed. They maintained communication, allowing assisting units to respond effectively.

The juvenile was apprehended,

and based on the officers' observations, a perimeter was established for a thorough search by the K9 unit, which ultimately resulted in the recovery of a concealed handgun.

The proactive efforts and coordinated actions of the officers led to the removal of an illegally possessed firearm and the detention of a violent juvenile, likely preventing further crimes. Their professionalism and dedication reflect great credit upon themselves and the Greenbelt Police Department, said Bowers.

This article is based on a press release from Greenbelt Police Department.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

On Thursday, April 23, the City of Greenbelt participated in Take Your Child to Work Day. Children were treated to a close-up look at the city's police vehicles and a visit with Police Dog Ollie and handler Officer Alvarez.

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NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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COUNCIL continued from page 12

seem problematic.

Community Center

Jordan praised the activity screen in the Community Center, asking if that information could appear on the city's website. Varda explained that different software would inhibit a seamless connection. However, the public information officer is investigating linking calendars, cancellations and registrations. Customers with a recreation account, Salmerón added, can log on and see the calendar.

Jordan asked about the commercial kitchen. Varda said rentals are promoted, but there are challenges. County licensing and permitting discourages many potential renters and (as Phelan noted) burdens small business owners. Also caterers sometimes need early morning access outside operating hours, though accommodation might be possible.

Pompi suggested that Green-

belt might help with permitting and Salmerón said he was working on this with the county. An upcoming food handling class in the kitchen is nearly full, facilitating the first step of permitting.

Other Programs

McKinney expressed appreciation for the successful workforce development program for Greenbelt residents.

Jordan asked about ADA and accessibility improvements, especially at the Aquatic & Fitness Center. Phelan described requested adjustments to fitness equipment, a water wheelchair and a lift for the outdoor pool. All recreation buildings and projects are monitored for compliance, Varda said, describing accessibility elements of the Braden Field upgrade. Salmerón added that elevator repairs are proceeding as funding becomes available. Inclusion staff and new technologies meet individual needs.



BELTWAY continued from page 12

the new food court and additional entertainment spaces, both management and tenants say the mall's success will depend on preserving that sense of familiarity while continuing to evolve. For Kumar, that balance is what keeps customers coming back, not just to shop, but to stay.

"You don't feel like you're going shopping," Kumar said. "You are here to shop and ... have a little bit of a good time."

Laura Charleston is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



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Patuxent Refuge Holds May Activities

The featured art at the John Hollingsworth Art Gallery will be a photo exhibition from May 1 through 30 by Nishanth Sunny, an associate professor at the University of Maryland. The theme of the exhibition is Nature's Wonders - Let's Preserve Them!

Prints from the exhibit are available for purchase. They will be available for pickup from the gift shop starting June 3. All of the proceeds go to benefit the mission of the Friends of Patuxent.

Patuxent Refuge Shop Needs Volunteers

Friends of Patuxent's Wildlife Images Bookstore & Nature Shop in the refuge Visitor Center seeks to welcome new volunteers. All shop profits benefit this national wildlife refuge, but the shop can't run without enough volunteers.

Retirees, at-home adults with school-age children, homeschoolers and others with schedule-accommodation needs will be welcomed to this friendly and educational place. While most volunteers help in the shop from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. one day per week on a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, the shop manager can work with volunteers to accommodate fewer hours' service in a day.

Primary tasks are to run the digital cash register (training provided) and make change for customers' cash purchases. Especially valued are reliability, flexibility and willingness to learn.

Adults and youth aged 16-17 with a parent/guardian who will co-volunteer, inquire soon. Two adults who would like to volunteer together would also be welcome.

To learn more about this fun and interesting service opportunity experience, email shop manager Ann Carlson at wibookstore@friendsofpatuxent.org or call 301-497-5771 Wednesday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.



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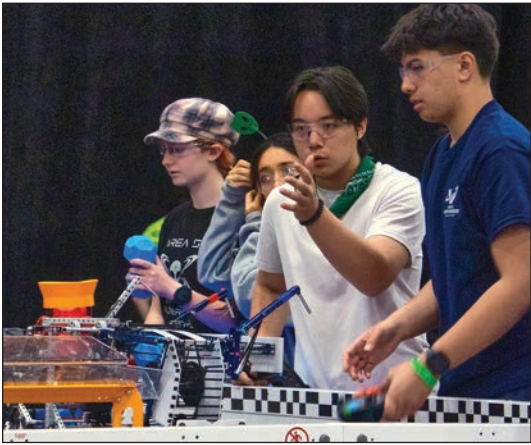
ERHS Students Compete at VEX World Robotics Championship

by Owen Kelley

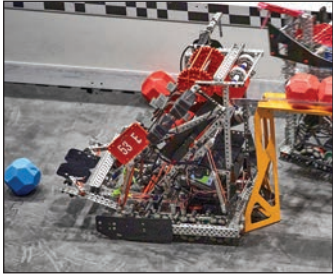
On April 21 to 24, five students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) – John Kelley, Antony Lin, Lorie Nickel, Meghana Noojipady and Violet Ridge – were in St. Louis, Mo., to compete in the 2026 VEX robotics high school World Championship. Among the 868 robots who qualified to compete at this event, the ERHS robot, known as robot 53E, was the only one built by Prince George’s County students. Leading up to this event, over 6,800 high school teams had competed in local VEX tournaments this school year. At the world championship, ERHS competed in 12 two-minute matches that each featured four robots on a 12-foot-square playing

field. Each year, VEX announces a new challenge, and this year’s challenge required the robots to pick up cubes and slide them into four goals. A robot may push an opponent or remove their cubes from goals. The panoramic photo shows the scale of the event. Behind the bleachers are pit areas for repairing robots. The ERHS students spent hours visiting other teams’ pits to exchange ideas, to pick up souvenirs like stickers with a team’s name on them, and to sign posters or flags. In one of their 12 matches, ERHS was allied with a team from Benghazi, Libya, when they tried, unsuccessfully, to defeat an alliance from Ireland and Canada.

On the last day, teams from Nebraska and Washington state became this year’s world champions, but the high-energy event served another purpose too. It was like a comic convention, except with dueling robots. The hope of qualifying to attend the World Championship inspires teams everywhere to work hard on their robots and do their best at local competitions. The team’s head coach is Karen Bogoski, an engineering teacher at ERHS. The team is supported by the Neal Peter Memorial Fund, the Maryland Department of Education and donations from the community.



Driver Antony Lin (third from left) of ERHS consults with another team shortly before a match. To Lin’s right are team members Violet Ridge and Meghana Noojipady. Not pictured are Lorie Nickel and John Kelley.



- Photos by Owen Kelley

Eleanor Roosevelt’s robot 53E



This photo provides a panoramic view of the World Championship. On the left, coach Praveen Noojipady is standing near the top of the bleachers to watch a match.

Celebrating a Decade of Korean Culture at Eleanor Roosevelt H.S.

by Bob Huh

Ten years ago, in 2016, a new tradition began at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), one that would grow into one of the most vibrant cultural celebrations on campus. The Eleanor Roosevelt KoRean (ERKR) Showcase, dedicated to highlighting the richness of Korean language and culture, has officially reached its 10th anniversary. This milestone marks a decade of student talent, community building and cultural appreciation. **Humble Beginnings** The story of ERKR began in September 2015 with the creation of the school’s Korean Club. Founded by ESOL teacher Bob Huh, the club aimed to spark interest in Korean culture through four core pillars: Taekwondo, language learning, K-pop dance and traditional folk arts. What began with an expectation of about 10 students quickly exceeded all predictions: more than 30 students signed up right away. This overwhelming interest laid the foundation for what would become a lasting tradition. That same momentum led to today’s historic milestone. In 2016, ERHS became the first public high school in Maryland to offer Korean as a language elective. What started as an after-school club evolved into a formal academic program, allowing students to earn language credit while exploring Korean history, culture and society. The program also helped establish the Korean Honor Society (KHS), further strengthening cultural awareness within the school community.

Diverse Talent Over the years, the ERKR Showcase has grown into a dynamic production that blends traditional heritage with modern pop culture. This year’s anniversary event, held on Thursday, March 26, featured a wide range of performances and exhibits: • Modern Beats: High-energy K-pop dance and singing performances • Timeless Traditions: Cultural performances such as the Fan Dance, Nanta and Taekwondo demonstrations • Creative Expressions: A student art showcase featuring Korean-inspired works • Student-led Drama: Original plays written and performed by Korean 1 and 2 students, highlighting their developing language skills. **Beyond the Stage** More than just a performance, the ERKR Showcase reflects the inclusive spirit of ERHS. Through the Korean Club and KHS, students have helped create a welcoming environment while promoting a deeper understanding of Korean culture within the diverse Raider community. As the curtain falls on another successful year, the 10th anniversary stands as a powerful reminder of the students’ dedication and the lasting impact of cultural exchange at ERHS. Reflecting on the past decade, Huh emphasizes that ERKR is also a platform for student growth. “Students don’t just learn how to perform,” he explains. “They develop essential leadership, organizational and communication skills while working with

peers, schools and community partners.” Producing an event that draws more than 300 audience members each year requires the coordinated effort of nearly 100 student performers and volunteers. Through this experience, students gain valuable skills in teamwork and project management – skills that extend far beyond high school. For many students, ERKR becomes a defining moment. “Some students have never had an experience like this, especially after the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic,” Huh notes. “Many say it’s their favorite memory at ERHS.” **A Community Effort** Huh also emphasizes that this milestone would not have been possible without the strong support of the ERHS community. He extends special thanks to: Building Supervisor Mr. Dent and his crew, along with Auditorium Technician Mr. Smith, for ensuring the event runs smoothly; Principal Portia Barnes and the administrative team for their continued support of cultural diversity; and teachers, staff and Air Force JROTC cadets for their invaluable contributions. As ERKR enters its second decade, the future looks bright. With continued student passion and community support, the showcase will remain a powerful space for cultural connection, creativity and leadership at ERHS. *Bob Huh is a World Languages teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.*



Members of the Eleanor Roosevelt Korean (ERKR) Club demonstrated their growing Korean language skills in the high school’s annual ERKR Showcase on March 26. The students delivered a traditional and a modern play, Nanta drumming, a fan dance, taekwondo, and K-pop dance and singing performances.

- Photos courtesy Bob Huh